

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6161

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 15135

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, EIND, EMIN, ETRD, GATT, AS, JA, NZ

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER TANAKA'S VISIT TO AUSTRALIA AND NEW
ZEALAND

REF: (A) WELLINGTON 3457 (B) CANBERRA 7286

SUMMARY: EMBASSY HAS DISCUSSED VISIT BY PRIME MINISTER
TANAKA TO NEW ZEALAND OCTOBER 28-31 AND AUSTRALIA
OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 6 WITH UKAWA, DIRECTOR, FIRST INTER-
NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS BUREAU,
FONOFF (WHO SERVED DURING VISITS AS INTERPRETER TO TANAKA);
KAGAMI, DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL, EUROPEAN AND OCEANIC
AFFAIRS BUREAU, FONOFF; AND HOSOKAWA, DEPTY DIRECTOR,
AMERICAS-OCEANIA DIVISION, INTERNATIONAL TRADE POLICY
BUREAU, MITI (WHO ALSO ACCOMPANIED TANAKA). ALL OFFICIALS
AGREED THAT VISIT HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL FROM GOJ'S POINT OF
VIEW, NOTING THAT GNZ AND GOA HAD NOT PRESSED JAPANESE
UNDULY ON BILATERAL ECONOMIC ISSUES, AND THAT, IN TURN
JAPAN HAD MADE CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS ON ISSUES OF
INTEREST TO IT. ONE OFFICIAL, WHO TERMED VISIT QTE
UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS UNQTE, OPINED THAT BILATERAL RELATION-
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SHIP MORE IMPORTANT TO NZ AND AUSTRALIA THAN TO JAPAN,
PARTICULARLY AS RESULT UK ACCESSION TO EC, ACCORDINGLY,

GNZ AND GOA HAVE MADE SPECIAL EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONSHIP. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF COMMENTS BY THREE OFFICIALS ON HIGHLIGHTS OF VISITS. END SUMMARY.

1. VISIT TO NZ APPARENTLY COVERED FEWER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES THAN IN CASE OF AUSTRALIA. MAIN ISSUE OF CONCERN TO GNZ WAS JAPANESE BAN ON BEEF IMPORTS. IN RESPONSE TO STRONG STATEMENT ON THIS ISSUE BY PM ROWLING, TANAKA RECOUNTED POLITICAL AND QTE ECONOMIC UNQTE IMPEDIMENTS TO REMOVAL OF RESTRICTION, BUT PROMISED THAT IMPORTS WOULD BE RESUMED EVENTUALLY, HOWEVER, WITHOUT INDICATING TIMETABLE.

2. FOLLOWING WERE HIGHLIGHTS OF OTHER ISSUES DISCUSSED IN NZ:

(A) ROWLING PRESSED TANAKA FOR AGREEMENT TO INSTITUTIONALIZE MINISTERIAL-LEVEL BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS. TANAKA DECLINED REQUEST, BUT APPARENTLY AGREED TO CONTINUING AD HOC CONSULTATIONS WITH ONE OR TWO MINISTERS IN ATTENDANCE TO COVER MAJOR SUBJECTS OF DISCUSSION.

(B) TANAKA DECLINED NZ REQUEST FOR CIVIL AIR AGREEMENT ON GROUNDS THAT HANEDA AIRPORT IN TOKYO ALREADY OVERCROWDED AND NO RELIEF IN SIGHT UNTIL OPENING OF NARITA AIRPORT.

(C) IN RESPONSE TO NZ REQUEST FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION IN FISHING, TANAKA STATED JAPAN WAS PREPARED TO PROMOTE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION.

(D) BROAD CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM WAS AGREED UPON.

3. WITH RESPECT TO AUSTRALIA, JAPANESE APPARENTLY VIEWED KEY ISSUES AS THOSE RELATING TO RAW MATERIAL SUPPLIES. JAPANESE PLEASED WITH REFERENCES IN COMMUNIQUE TO AUSTRALIAN PREPAREDNESS TO SUPPLY JAPANESE REQUIREMENTS, EVEN THOUGH THESE EXPRESSED IN GENERAL TERMS. AUSTRALIANS ASKED JAPANESE TO INDICATE RAW MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS IN ORDER TO FACILITATE PLANNING.
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AUSTRALIAN PROPOSAL FOR JOINT FEASIBILITY STUDY OF URANIUM ENRICHMENT FACILITY MET WITH TANAKA'S PROMISE OF FULL COOPERATION, BUT BOTH SIDES AGREED THEY DID NOT WISH TO EXCLUDE ANY INTERESTED THIRD COUNTRY.

4. INTERESTING SIDELIGHT ON RESOURCE POLICY WAS CONCERN EXPRESSED BY PM WHITLAM THAT JAPAN-SOVIET COOPERATION ON SIBERIAN RESOURCE PROJECTS MIGHT RESULT IN LESSENING OF JAPAN'S NEED FOR AUSTRALIAN RAW MATERIALS.

5. WHITLAM EXPRESSED DESIRE THAT JAPAN JOIN INTERNATIONAL SUGAR AGREEMENT. TANAKA AGREED TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION AND CONSULT ON THIS POSSIBILITY.

6. IN VIEW OF THEIR DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE IN AUSTRALIAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, JAPANESE WERE PLEASED BY GENERAL DIRECTION OF NEW FOREIGN INVESTMENT GUIDELINES, WHICH THEY CONSIDER IMPROVEMENT OVER POLICY DIRECTION INDICATED BY WHITLAM DURING HIS VISIT TO JAPAN LAST YEAR. HOWEVER, THEY WILL WITHHOLD JUDGMENT PENDING IMPLEMENTATION OF GUIDELINES.

7. RE BILATERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO AUSTRALIA:

(A) AUSTRALIANS COMPLAINED ABOUT JAPANESE BAN ON BEEF IMPORTS, BUT DID NOT PRESS AS STRONGLY AS NEW ZEALAND. TANAKA REPLIED IN SIMILAR VEIN AS TO NZ.

(B) THERE WAS GENERAL DISCUSSION OF QTE COOPERATION UNQTE ON AUTOMOBILE EXPORTS FROM JAPAN, CENTERING ON AUSTRALIAN DESIRE THAT TOYOTA AND NISSAN MANUFACTURE SOME COMPONENTS IN AUSTRALIA. NO SPECIFIC AGREEMENT WAS REACHED, AND EXPORT RESTRAINTS WERE NOT MENTIONED.

8. RE TRADE POLICY, JAPANESE NOTED INSERTION BY AUSTRALIANS IN COMMUNIQUE OF INTENTION TO QTE PARTICIPATE FULLY UNQTE IN MTN. WHILE THEY DID NOT PRESS AUSTRALIANS ON MEANING OF ABOVE PHRASE, THEY WONDERED WHETHER IT MEANT THAT AUSTRALIA WILL NOT DECLINE TO BE A LINEAR COUNTRY, SHOULD THAT APPROACH BE ADOPTED, AS IT DID
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DURING KENNEDY ROUND. GOJ OFFICIAL ADDED HIS OPINION THAT AUSTRALIA WOULD PROVE TO BE MORE COOPERATIVE THAN CANADA ON SUPPLY QUESTIONS IN MTN.
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